MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The honourable member, who is a member of the Advisory Board, is very well aware that a Sub-Committee is sitting on the subject. They have not yet made a report.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Always*): Sir, I am not a member of the Sub-Committee. I do not know what they have done.

PRESIDENT: However, the question will go before the Committee.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know whether there is any Government order asking for the levy of fees from Muslim girls?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There is a Government order sanctioning full exemption from payment of fees from Muslim girls in Departmental schools.

Village Reading Rooms.

294. *MR. E. K. KUNJURAMAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many Village Reading Rooms have been established recently throughout the State;

(*b*) whether they will be pleased to place on the table a list showing the exact value of books, newspapers and furniture allotted to each of the Reading Rooms;

(*c*) the necessity for the Village Reading Room Committees;

(*d*) the powers and authorities of these Committees on the Reading Rooms;

(*e*) whether they realise any monthly fee from the people who read in the Reading Rooms; and

(*f*) whether the depressed classes are exempted from the liability to give monthly fee to the Reading Rooms?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*):

(*a*) 60.

(*b*) Rs. 180 for books and periodicals and Rs. 100 for articles of furniture.

(*c*) To assist the Honorary Librarian in his work.

(*d*) Not yet defined.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) In view of the answer to part (*e*), this question does not arise.

Protection of depressed classes.

295. *MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the amount spent till the 1st Meenam 1111, out of the sum sanctioned for the protection of depressed classes, during 1111?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Rs. 3,512-9-2.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): May I know how much money was spent to improve the housing conditions of the depressed classes?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No money has actually been spent. But sanction has been given for opening a colony for depressed classes at Kulathur.

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